

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 L-02 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 NIC-01

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SUBJECT: DUTCH DEVELOPMENT AID TO CUBA

1. A FIVE-MAN CUBAN DELEGATION HEADED BY MR. MELENDEZ BACHS, VICE PRESIDENT OF CUBAN COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION (CETSC) VISITED NETHERLANDS FEBRUARY 10-14 TO WORK OUT AGREEMENT WITH GON ON DUTCH DEVELOPMENT AID TO CUBA IN 1975.

2. THE DELEGATION, WHICH CALLED ON DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTER PRONK AND ECONOMIC MINISTER LUBBERS, WAS COMPOSED OF:

MR. PEDRO ACZUY, VICE MINISTER OF CUBAN HEALTH CARE

MR. GILMON TELEGO, DIRECTOR OF CUBAN MEDICAL CARE

MR. RAOUL TALADRID SUAREZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DEPT. FOR RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, CETSC

MR. NICOLAS FERNANDEZ MONTOTO, LEGAL ADVISER

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3. AFTER WEEK OF TALKS WITH DUTCH DELEGATION HEADED BY

FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, MR. L. VAN GORKOM, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON ALLOCATION OF FOUR MILLION US DOLLARS WORTH OF PROJECT AID BUDGETED AS FOLLOWS: \$1.6 TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CUBA AS GIFT IN FORM OF PROJECT AID AND \$2.4 MILLION AS SOFT LOAN TO BE SPENT IN EITHER NETHERLANDS, CUBA OR OTHER LDC'S.

4. BASED ON STUDIES MADE PRIOR TO TALKS BY DUTCH NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AND NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (ADVISORY BODY TO MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AID), AGREEMENT WAS REACHED FOR DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

A. CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECT AIMED AT IMPROVING CUBAN FOOD INDUSTRY, WHICH IS PRESENTLY BEING CARRIED OUT BY SWEDEN, DENMARK AND F.A.O. NETHERLANDS WILL CONTRIBUTE WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF BABY FOOD INSTITUTE AND CEREALS INSTITUTE.

B. IMPROVEMENT OF HAVANA HARBOR FACILITIES (DREDGING AND WRECK LIFTING).

C. SMALL PROJECT FOR MONITORING OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACTIVITIES.

D. INVESTIGATION AIMED AT IMPROVING CUBAN HEALTH CARE PROGRAM. (VAN GORKOM TOLD US CUBANS WANT TO PUT UP 40 NEW HOSPITALS AND EQUIP THEM WITH PHILIPS EQUIPMENT.)

5. THE LAST PROJECT IS REGARDED AS MOST IMPORTANT, BECAUSE DELEGATION TOLD DUTCH THAT CUBA WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO DEVELOPING ITS HEALTH CARE SECTOR UNDER ITS 1976-180 FIVE-YEAR PLAN. IF DUTCH AID TO CUBA IS TO CONTINUE AFTER 1975, EFFORTS WILL BE CONCENTRATED CHIEFLY IN THIS SECTION.

6. TOGETHER WITH PERU, COLOMBIA AND JAMAICA, CUBA BELONGS TO GROUP OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES ON WHICH DUTCH DEVELOPMENT AID EFFORTS ARE BEING CONCENTRATED.
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